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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/638,119	08/14/2000	Motomo Kajiura	C2405	8620

7590 04/10/2002

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/638,119

Applicant(s)

KAJIURA ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. Applicant's amendment filed January 11, 2002 in which Claims 1 and 9 have been amended, has been placed of record in the file as Paper No. 11.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,102,708) in view of Cohn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,915,639). With regard to Claims 1-3, 9, and 16-17, Kimura discloses an electrical connector system comprising: an electronic card connector (1) having an opening, between (81) and (91); a frame (12) associated with the electrical connector (1) and a transition board (260). See Figs. 2-5.

Kimura doesn't show a temperature sensor.

Cohn et al. discloses an electrical connector (10) having a temperature sensor (70). See Fig. 6.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the electrical connector system of Kimura by including a temperature sensor as taught in Cohn et al. to detect overload and to shut down the system when overload takes place.

With regard to Claims 4-7, and 10-13, Kimura discloses the electronic card connector (1) includes a conductive cover (81,91) having an aperture, (below (86)), the cover includes a tab (86) associated with the aperture (below (86)); and further comprising an eject mechanism (351). See Fig. 1.

With regard to Claims 8, 14-15 and 18-19, Cohn et al. discloses a flexible circuit (72), the temperature sensor (70) mounted to a flexible circuit (72). See Fig. 6.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed June 28, 2201 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's argument regarding Claims 1, 9 and 16 that the references doesn't show a temperature sensor adapted to detect temperature of a mating connector or electronic cards, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138.

In response to Applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208

USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

In response to Applicant's argument regarding Claims 1, 9 and 16 that the Cohn reference uses the sensor for sensing the temperature of an outlet, the fact that Applicant uses the sensor for a different purpose does not alter the conclusion that its use in a prior art device would be *prima facie* obvious from the purpose disclosed in the reference. *In re Lintner*, 173 USPQ 560.

In response to Applicant's argument regarding Claims 4-5 and 11 that the references don't show the temperature sensor extending into an aperture or mounted in a tab, Applicant is reminded that the combination of Kimura and Cohn et al. would suggest a connector having a temperature sensor in any place that a person with ordinary skill in the art would consider to be pertinent to detect overload and to shut down the system when overload takes place. Therefore, since Kimura discloses the claimed invention except the temperature sensor it would be obvious to use the teaching of having a sensor in a connector as shown in Cohn et al. to modify the connector of Kimura.

In response to Applicant's argument regarding Claims 8,14 and 18 that the references don't show a temperature sensor mounted in a flexible circuit, Applicant's attention is directed to Fig. 6 of Cohn et al. in which it's clearly disclose a flexible circuit (72) and the temperature sensor (70) mounted to a flexible circuit (72).

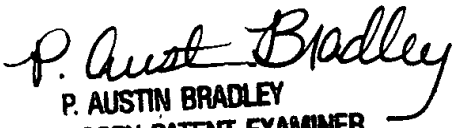
**Conclusion**

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

EAL  
April 3, 2002

  
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY  
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